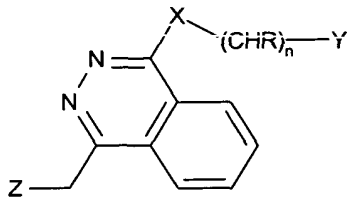
What is claimed is:

1. A method for the delivery of a phthalazine derivative to the retina of a subject afflicted with a retinal disease, comprising the topical ocular administration to a subject in need of treatment of an effective amount of an aqueous composition comprising a compound of formula (I) to treat retinal disease afflicting the subject, wherein formula (I) is



(I)

wherein

n is 0 to 2,

R is H or lower alkyl;

X is imino, oxa, or thia;

Y is aryl; and

Z is unsubstituted or substituted pyridyl,

an N-oxide thereof, wherein 1 or more N atoms carry an oxygen atom,

or a salt thereof.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said retinal disease is selected from the group consisting of macular edema, choroidal neovascularization and retinal neovascularization.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said retinal disease is exudative age related macular degeneration.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said retinal disease is proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said retinal disease is an ischemic retinopathy.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said subject is a human.

7. The method of claim 1,

wherein

n is 0 or 1;

R is H or lower alkyl;

X is imino, oxa or thia;

Y is phenyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkoxycarbonyi, iower aikyicarbamoyi, lower alkanoyl, phenyloxy, halogen-lower alkyloxy, lower alkoxycarbonyl, lower alkylmercapto, halogen-lower alkylmercapto, hydroxy-lower alkyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, halogen-lower alkylsulfonyl, dihydroxybora (-$B(OH)_2$), 2-methylpyrimidin-4-yl, oxazol-5-yl, 2-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-yl, 1H-pyrazol-3-yl, 1-methyl-pyrazol-3-yl, lower alkylenedioxy bound to two adjacent C-atoms, pyridyl, or 4-chloro-2-fluoroanilino, wherein said phenyl is unsubstituted or is substituted by one or two substituents independently of one another from the group comprising amino, lower alkanoylamino, halogen, lower alkyl, halogen-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, phenyl-lower alkoxy and cyano; and

Z is 3- or 4-pyridyl, lower alkyl, halogen-lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or hydroxy, wherein said pyridyl is unsubstituted or is substituted by one or two substituents independently of one another from the group comprising halogen.

8. The method of claim 1,

wherein

n is 0 or 1;

R is H;

X is imino;

Y is phenyl, lower alkanoylamino, halogen, lower alkyl, halogen-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, phenyl-lower alkoxy or cyano, wherein said phenyl is unsubstituted or is substituted by one or two substituents independently of one another from the group comprising amino; and

Z is 4-pyridyl, lower alkyl, halogen-lower alkyl, hydroxy and lower alkoxy, wherein pyridyl is unsubstituted or is substituted by a substituent from the group consisting of halogen.

9. The method of claim 1,

wherein

n is 0 or 1;

R is H;

X is imino;

Y is phenyl, lower alkyl, halogen-lower alkyl, hydroxy; lower alkoxy or cyano, wherein phenyl is unsubstituted or is substituted by one or two substituents independently of one another from halogen; and

Z is 4-pyridyl, lower alkyl, halogen-lower alkyl, hydroxy or lower alkoxy, wherein said pyridyl is substituted or unsubstituted by a halogen.

10. The method of claim 1,

wherein

n is 0;

X is imino;

Y is phenyl, methyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, cyano or methoxy, wherein said phenyl is substituted or unsubstituted by fluorine or chlorine; and

Z is 4-pyridyl, methyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy or methoxy, wherein said pyridyl is substituted or unsubstituted by fluorine or chlorine.

11. The method of claim 1,

wherein

n is 0;

X is imino;

Y is phenyl, methyl, methoxy, cyano or trifluoromethyl, wherein said phenyl is substituted or unsubstituted by chlorine or fluorine; and

Z is 4-pyridyl or methyl, wherein said pyridyl is substituted or unsubstituted by chlorine or fluorine.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

1-(4-Methylanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Chloroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-Anilino-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-Benzylamino-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(4-Methoxyanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Benzyloxyanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Methoxyanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(2-Methoxyanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(4-Trifluoromethylanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(4-Fluoroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Hydroxyanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(4-Hydroxyanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Aminoanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3,4-Dichloroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(4-Bromoanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Chloro-4-methoxyanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(4-Cyanoanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Chloro-4-fluoroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Methylanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is 1-(3-Chloroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine and said subject is a human.

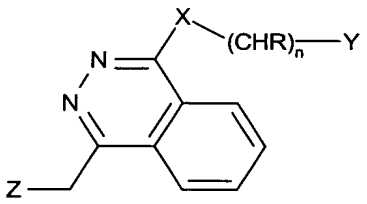
14. The method of claim 13, wherein said retinal disease is selected from the group consisting of macular edema, choroidal neovascularization and retinal neovascularization.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein said retinal disease is exudative age related macular degeneration.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein said retinal disease is proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein said retinal disease is an ischemic retinopathy.

18. A composition comprising a squeezable container suitable for dispensing drops of an aqueous solution, and further comprising disposed within said container an aqueous composition comprising water and a compound of formula (I) to treat retinal disease afflicting the subject, wherein formula (I) is



(I)

wherein

n is 0 to 2;

R is H or lower alkyl;

X is imino, oxa, or thia;

Y is aryl; and

Z is unsubstituted or substituted pyridyl,

an N-oxide thereof, wherein 1 or more N atoms carry an oxygen atom,

or a salt thereof.

19. The composition of claim 18, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

1-(4-Methylanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Chloroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-Anilino-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-Benzylamino-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(4-Methoxyanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Benzyloxyanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Methoxyanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(2-Methoxyanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(4-Trifluoromethylanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(4-Fluoroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Hydroxyanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(4-Hydroxyanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Aminoanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3,4-Dichloroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(4-Bromoanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Chloro-4-methoxyanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(4-Cyanoanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Chloro-4-fluoroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine;

1-(3-Methylanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.